

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION NATO
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4905

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, NO
SUBJECT: TAIWAN OPERA COMPANY APPEARANCE BRINGS PRC PROTEST,
MAY CAUSE VISA ISSUANCE PROCEDURE CHANGE

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 3128; (B) VIENNA 8006

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE TAIWAN OPERA LAST WEEK ONLY TO HAVE LEFTIST STUDENTS LOCK THE HALL AND PREVENT THE FIRST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE. POLICE MANAGED TO SWEEP STUDENTS AWAY TO PERMIT THE OPERA TO GO ON THE SECOND NIGHT. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PRC EMBASSY IN OSLO PROTESTED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON THE VISIT, WHILE CONSERVATIVE SPOKESMAN ROSE TO PROTEST STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT DURING THE WEEK THAT THE INCIDENT MAY MAKE IT NECESSARY TO CHANGE VISA PROCESSING REGULATIONS FOR GROUPS FROM TAIWAN. END SUMMARY
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1. THE VISIT OF THE TAIWAN OPERA TO OSLO SEPT 21-22 BLEW UP
A STORM OF PROTEST AND HAS GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT CAUSE TO REVIEW
ITS VISA AUTHORIZATIONS FOR GROUPS FROM TAIWAN. LEFTISTS
STUDENTS, SUPPORTED BY THE NORWEGIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
LED BY CHAIRMAN TARALD ROHDE, WAVED PLACARDS CALLING FOR "REMOVAL
OF TAIWANESE FASCISTS FROM NORWAY" AND LOCKED THEM-
SELVES IN STUDENT CLUB CHATEAU NEUF, PREVENTING SEVERAL HUNDRED
GUESTS AND THE OPERA PERFORMERS FROM ENTERING. THE NEXT NIGHT
POLICE WERE ABLE TO SWEEP THE PROTESTERS OUT AND HAULED SOME OFF
TO JAIL BEFORE THE OPERA GROUP COULD APPEAR. THE CANCELLATION
RESULTED IN A SERIOUS FINANCIAL LOSS FOR THE NEAR BANKRUPT
STUDENT CLUB.

2. MEANWHILE, THE PRC EMBASSY IN OSLO EXPRESSED STRONG DISAPPROVAL
TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE TAIWANESE TROOP WAS ALLOWED TO
PERFORM.

3. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE INCIDENT FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKESMAN
EGIL HELLE SAID IT HAS RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE NEED TO CHANGE
VISA PROCESSING RULES FOR VISITING TAIWANESE SO THAT GROUP
APPLICATIONS WILL BE REFERRED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.

4. THE INCIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT STIRRED
OTHER VOICES TO SUPPORT THE OPERA'S APPEARANCE AND THE RIGHT
OF ARTISTS TO PERFORM IN NORWAY. CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF PAR-
LIAMENT PAUL THYNNESS CALLED THE STUDENT ACTION MOB BEHAVIOR
BY POLITICAL EXTREMISTS AND SAID HE BELIEVED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
REVIEW OF VISA REGULATIONS WILL CONFIRM THE WISDOM OF
CONTINUING THE PRACTICES CURRENTLY USED.

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5. THE VISIT'S DOMESTIC REPERCUSSIONS AND PROBLEMS CREATED WITH
THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS, MAY WELL LEAD TO A MORE CAREFUL REVIEW
OF GROUP VISA REQUESTS BY MFA AND MORE RESTRICTIVE NORWEGIAN
ATTITUDE TO VISITING ROC GROUPS. MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR VIBE
INFORMED DCM HE THOUGHT THAT GON WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO ADOPT
POLICY SIMILAR TO THAT DENMARK AND OTHER EC COUNTRIES EMPLOY
WHEREBY VISAS ARE REFUSED TO GROUPS, SUCH AS TAIWANESE OPERA,
WHICH GOVERNMENT FEELS ARE TRAVELING TO NORWAY FOR POLITICAL
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PURPOSES. APPARENTLY, THE GROUP WAS ONLY ALLOWED TO ENTER
NORWAY AND FINLAND AMONG THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES. AT PRESENT
GON CONSULATE IN HONG KONG HAS GENERAL GUIDANCE ON ISSUING VISAS
TO TRAVELERS FROM ROC, AND HAS NOT HAD STANDING GUIDANCE
TO REFER GROUP REQUESTS TO OSLO. SUCH GUIDANCE WILL ALMOST
CERTAINLY BE RESULT TO LATEST VISIT.

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ANDERS

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